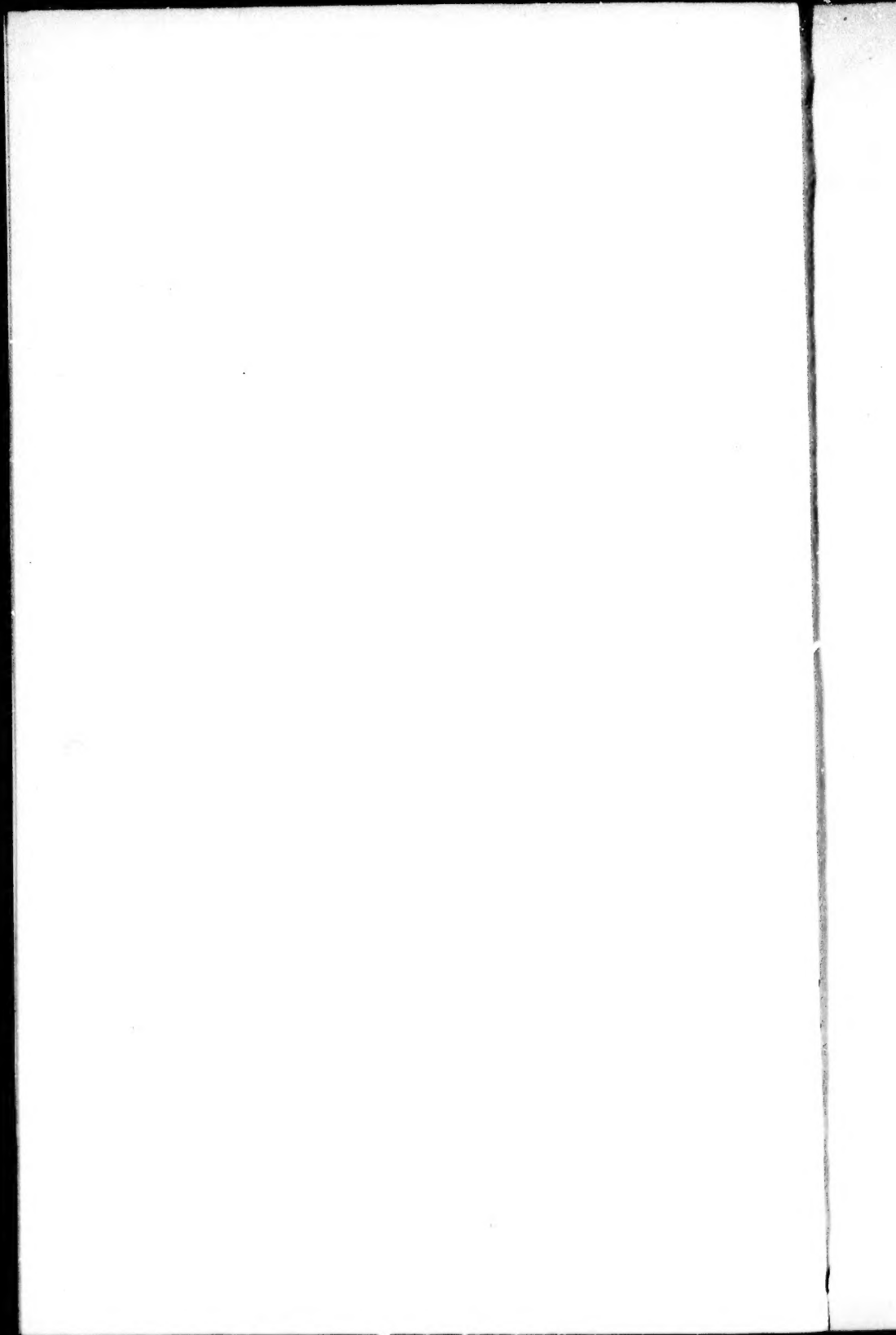




GENERAL POST OFFICE.

CONVENTION

BETWEEN THE

GENERAL POST OFFICE

OF THE

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND,**

AND THE

GENERAL POST OFFICE

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Signed at London the 18th day of June 1867.



LONDON:

**PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE**

1867.

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THE GENERAL POST OFFICE of the UNITED KINGDOM of GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND and the GENERAL POST OFFICE of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA being desirous of regulating, by means of a new Convention, the Communications by Post between the two countries, the undersigned, duly authorized for that purpose by their respective Governments, have agreed upon the following Articles :—

ARTICLE 1.

There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the United States of America, as well for letters, newspapers, book packets, and patterns or samples of merchandise, originating in the United Kingdom or in the United States, as for articles of the same nature originating in or destined for the countries or colonies the correspondence of which is forwarded through the United Kingdom or through the United States.

ARTICLE 2.

Each office shall make its own arrangements for the despatch of mails to the other office by well appointed ships sailing on stated days, and shall, at its own cost, remunerate the owners of such ships for the conveyance of the mails.

ARTICLE 3.

The postage on a single international letter shall not exceed sixpence in the United Kingdom, or twelve cents in the United States, and the authorized weight of a single letter shall be half an ounce in the United Kingdom, or fifteen grammes (by the metrical scale) in the United States.

For other than single letters the same charge shall be made for every additional half ounce or fifteen grammes, or fraction thereof.

ARTICLE 4.

Every international letter insufficiently paid, or wholly unpaid, received in the United States from the United Kingdom shall, in addition to the deficient postage, be subject to a fine of five cents, such fine to be retained by the United States Post Office, and every international letter insufficiently paid, or wholly unpaid, received in the United Kingdom from the United States, shall, in addition to the deficient postage, be subject to a fine the amount of which shall be fixed and retained by the British Post Office.

ARTICLE 5.

International newspapers, book packets, (including printed papers of all kinds, maps, plans, prints, engravings, drawings, photographs, lithographs, sheets of music, and so forth,) and patterns and samples of merchandise (including seeds and grain) shall be transmissible by either Office at such charges, (not less than threepence in the United Kingdom, or six cents in the United States per four ounces on book packets and patterns or samples of merchandise,) and under such regulations as the despatching office may from time to time lay down.

These regulations however, shall include the following :—

1. The postage shall be fully prepaid.
2. No book packet may contain anything which is sealed or otherwise closed against inspection, nor must there be any letter, nor any communication of the nature of a letter, whether separate or otherwise, unless the whole of such letter or communication be printed; but entries merely stating from whom, or to whom, the packet is sent, shall not be regarded as a letter.
3. No book packet must exceed two feet in length, or one foot in width or depth.

4. Neither office shall be bound to deliver printed papers the importation of which may be prohibited by the laws or regulations of the country to which they are transmitted.
5. So long as any Customs duty is chargeable in the United States on the importation, from the United Kingdom, of any of the articles enumerated above, such Customs duty shall be leviable in the United States, and the proceeds shall accrue to the United States Treasury.
6. Except as above, no charge whatever shall be levied in the country in which international newspapers, book packets, and patterns or samples of merchandise are delivered.

ARTICLE 6.

The postage collected in the two countries on international letters, newspapers, book packets, and patterns or samples of merchandise, together with the fees for registration, (but exclusive of fines for unpaid or insufficiently paid letters,) shall be equally divided between the two offices.

That portion of the postage of transit letters, transit newspapers, book packets, and patterns or samples of merchandise which represents the charge for the sea conveyance between the United Kingdom and the United States shall belong wholly to the despatching office.

For the purposes of this article, the charge for the sea conveyance of letters across the Atlantic shall be computed on the basis of fourpence, or eight cents, per single letter rate, and the charge for the sea conveyance across the Atlantic of newspapers, book packets, and patterns or samples of merchandise shall be computed at threepence per pound, or twelve cents per kilogramme.

ARTICLE 7.

The United States Post Office may deliver to the British Post Office letters or other postal packets which have been registered addressed to the United Kingdom. Reciprocally, the British Post Office may deliver to the United States Post Office registered letters or other postal packets which have been registered addressed to the United States.

The postage of registered letters and so forth shall always be paid in advance.

In addition to this postage, there shall also be charged a registration fee, the amount of which shall be fixed by the despatching office.

ARTICLE 8.

The United States Post Office may further deliver to the British Post Office registered letters and so forth, addressed to those countries or colonies to which registered letters can be sent from the United Kingdom.

The United States Post Office shall account to the British Post Office (in addition to the postage due to the British Post Office) for such sum as shall be chargeable to the inhabitants of the United Kingdom for the registration from the United Kingdom of every registered letter and so forth addressed to the countries or colonies above-mentioned.

On its side, the British Post Office may deliver to the United States Post Office registered letters and so forth addressed to those countries to which registered letters can be sent from the United States.

The British Post Office shall account to the United States Post Office (in addition to the postage due to the United States Post Office) for such sum as shall be chargeable to the inhabitants of the United States for the registration, from the United States, of every registered letter and so forth addressed to the countries above-mentioned.

ARTICLE 9.

The British Post Office engages to grant the transit through the United Kingdom, as well as the conveyance, by British Mail Packets, of the closed mails which the United States Post Office may exchange, in either direction, with the Post Offices of United States possessions or of foreign countries, and the United States Post Office engages to grant the transit through the United States, as well as the conveyance by United States Mail Packets, of the closed mails which the British Post Office may exchange, in either direction, with the Post Offices of British possessions or of foreign countries.

The country which sends or receives closed mails through the other shall render an account of the letters, newspapers, book packets, and patterns contained in such closed mails.

ARTICLE 10.

The rates of postage to be mutually paid for the territorial transit (including the passage of the English Channel) of all letters sent from one country to the other for transmission to places beyond in *closed mails*, shall be one half the ordinary inland rates now charged in the two countries respectively; viz., for transit through the United States one half of three cents per single letter, and for transit through the United Kingdom one half of a penny per single letter.

The transit rates of postage to be mutually paid for newspapers, book packets, and patterns, or samples of merchandise sent in closed mails shall be four pence per kilogramme for transit through the United Kingdom and six cents per pound for transit through the United States.

ARTICLE 11.

When, in any British or United States Port, a closed mail is transferred from one ship to another without any expense devolving on the office of the country owning such port, such transfer shall not be deemed a territorial transit, and shall not give rise to any charge for territorial transit.

ARTICLE 12.

The rates of postage to be paid by the British Post Office to the United States Post Office for the sea conveyance, other than across the Atlantic, of correspondence sent from the United Kingdom to the United States, in closed mails, for transmission to places beyond, or brought to the United States from places beyond, in closed mails, for transmission to the United Kingdom, shall be the same that are paid by the inhabitants of the United States. Reciprocally the rates of postage to be paid by the United States Post Office to the British Post Office for the sea conveyance, other than across the Atlantic, of correspondence sent from the United States to the United Kingdom, in closed mails, for transmission to places beyond, or brought to the United Kingdom from places beyond, in closed mails, for transmission to the United States, shall be the same that are paid by the inhabitants of the United Kingdom.

ARTICLE 13.

The combined territorial and sea rates upon transit correspondence sent in ordinary mails, to be accounted for by one office to the other, shall be the same that are paid by the inhabitants of the country through which the correspondence is forwarded.

ARTICLE 14.

The amount of postage chargeable by the United States Post Office, on its own account, upon every single letter sent through the United Kingdom in ordinary mails addressed to the United States shall be three cents, and the amount of postage chargeable by the British Post Office, on its own account, upon every single letter sent through the United States in ordinary mails addressed to the United Kingdom shall be one penny.

ARTICLE 15.

There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and Bermuda and between those States and the British Post Office agencies established in the Danish colony of St. Thomas, in Panama, in Colon, and in San Juan (Porto Rico). The postage to be accounted for on such correspondence shall be fixed from time to time by the mutual consent of the two Offices.

ARTICLE 16.

The British Post Office shall prepare, at the expiration of every quarter, separate accounts exhibiting the results of the exchange of correspondence, whether in ordinary mails, or in closed mails, between the respective Offices.

Such accounts shall be founded upon the acknowledgments of receipt of the respective Offices during the quarter.

The separate accounts shall be incorporated in general accounts which shall be compared and settled by the two Offices, and the balance shall forthwith be paid in the money of the country to which the payment is to be made by that Office which is found to be indebted to the other.

In converting United States currency into sterling or sterling into United States currency, four shillings and two pence shall be considered as the equivalent of a dollar.

ARTICLE 17.

Official communications addressed by the United States Post Office to the British Post Office, or by the British Post Office to the United States Post Office, shall not give rise to any account between the two Post Offices.

ARTICLE 18.

The two Offices shall by mutual consent make detailed regulations in accordance with the foregoing Articles, such regulations to be terminable, on a reasonable notice, by either Office.

ARTICLE 19.

All the conventions which now regulate the exchange of correspondence between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the United States of America shall cease to have effect from the date of the day when the present Convention shall be put into execution.

ARTICLE 20.

Articles 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, and 18 shall come into operation on the 1st October next, and the remaining articles on the 1st day of January 1868.

ARTICLE 21.

This Convention shall be terminable at any time, on a notice by either office of one year, and Article 5, except so far as relates to newspapers, shall be terminable on a notice of three months.

Done in duplicate and signed in London the 18th day of June 1867.

MONTROSE.

JOHN A. KASSON,
Sp. Commr., &c., &c.

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LONDON:

Printed by GEORGE E. EVANS and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
[—100.—s/67.]

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